

This expenditure was not anticipated at the time the Council met last time. The decision to shift the High Court to the Sri Mulam buildings was taken only at a later day and this additional work had to be carried out at short notice during the vacation time. As a result of these changes, Government may be saving a sum of Rs. 500 per month in the shape of rents that are now being paid for certain buildings where some offices were conducted. I request that this sum may be granted.

ELECTIONS TO THE FOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

President: Before proceeding with the Supplementary grants I have to inform the members of this House that two members have to be elected to a Committee which is proposed to be constituted in order to advise this Government on food control measures. The elections will be conducted to-day in the usual manner and it will be presided over by Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—Excise Rs. 500.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*): I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 500 for the entertainment of additional staff for preventive work in the High Ranges. For some time past it was found necessary to strengthen the protective staff in view of the menace from the adjoining British Indian villages from where criminal tribes have been coming in and causing loss to Government revenue—both Customs and Forest Revenue. A joint patrol party composed of the Police, Forest and Excise staff has been functioning now for some time. There is a small armed reserve in the Excise Department. This was organised mainly for protecting tobacco revenue, by patrolling the Cochin frontier. Till now the men required in High Ranges have been found from this armed force. But it is not possible to take these men always without seriously affecting the tobacco revenue. So, it is necessary to have a special additional staff for the High Ranges patrol work. This sum is meant for the additional staff for the remaining months of this year. I request that the honourable House will be pleased to grant this amount.

The motion for the grant was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—STAMPS—Rs. 30,850.

Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar: I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 30,850 under Demand No. III, Stamps for additional expenditure in connection with the printing and transmission of Stamp papers. The stamp revenue this year is nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times that of last year and there is an abnormal demand for stamp papers. Larger quantities of these papers have therefore to be printed and supplied. This involves an additional expenditure

[Mr. A. Lakshminarayana Ayyar]

of Rs. 30,850 made up of Rs. 9,000 under paper and card boards, Rs. 5,850 for Anchal charges and tin cases and Rs. 16,000 for discount to vendors. I request that the House will be pleased to vote the additional grant.

The question that Government be granted a supplementary grant of Rs. 30,850 under III Stamp was put to vote and carried. The grant was made.

President : Before putting this to the vote I think it is due to honourable Members of this house to be told why it is that we have had to come before this House for a supplementary grant. It was in the contemplation of the Government for some time purely from the economic point of view to house all the courts functioning in the metropolis in the same or contiguous series of buildings. It was considered that that procedure would tend to convenience and avoidance of delay and also help the litigant and the professional public. But another reason also supervened. This building, Sri Mulam Buildings as it is now called, is, if I am allowed the language of exaggeration, a palace and not a school. It was built at a cost of 8 lakhs of rupees in days when 8 lakhs meant 30 lakhs now. It contains more floor space—50 percent more floor space than the premises where the High Court was conducting their business, and, moreover, some of the rooms are so magnificent in their general construction and their view and all that one would think was of a high school, entirely disproportionate. There was another aspect also. The High School when it was first put up was based on a non-competitive ideal. There were no other schools nearby. The High School then contained a population of 1,200 or 1,300. But the High School population last year was 800. Now this building for 800 students was not only a superfluity, but it was almost an extravagance. The difficulty was in persuading the persons concerned to see the point of view of Government. Government were unsuccessful. They did not want to force this upon an unwilling judiciary or upon an unwilling bar. It is only after the removal that some of those who raised objections have come and said that if they had gone and seen the building they would never have objected. I do not say they objected without seeing the building. I would not argue against them to that extent. Therefore it was that the final decision was taken about three months ago and in order to implement that decision this expenditure is necessary. I am making this lengthy explanation because in a matter of this magnitude, this House is entitled to say that it should have been consulted before changes involved in financial commitments are made. It is not with a view to disparaging members of this House or in ignorance of the status it occupies in the financial administration of the country, that we have proceeded about it.

The question before the House is whether the Government will be allowed a supplementary grant of a sum of Rs. 37,145, in connection with the shifting of the High Court to the Sri Mulam Buildings from the present location.

The motion was put to the vote and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIV—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE Rs. 5,670.

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): Sir, I beg to move under Demand 14—Administration of justice for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,670 for the establishment of 6 itinerant Munsiff's Courts. It has been found from the statistics, that work in many of the Munsiff's Courts has increased to such an extent that the average for certain Munsiff's courts is over thousand a year. In order to give relief to the staff and the Munsiffs this proposal is made. These courts will for the time being be established at Neyyattinkara, Muvattupuzha, Chengannoor, Meenachil, Kanjirapalli and Shertallai, and their service will be required from time to time for relieving the congestion in other courts as well. This sum includes the amount necessary for furniture, books and also the pay of the Munsiffs and the staff for one month. I beg to move that the demand may be allowed.

The question before the House is whether the House will be pleased to allow a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,670 for the establishment of 6 itinerant Munsiff's courts.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XV—JAILS—10,600.

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker (*Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 10,600 under demand 15 Jails.

This amount is required for the purchase of raw materials for the jail manufactory, viz., textile yarn and leather. On account of the abnormal price in the raw material especially for leather and colours the amount provided in the budget was found inadequate. It is therefore that I ask for an additional sum.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: (*Parur, Kunnathnad and Muvattupuzha cum Devicolum*): May I know the exact return for the expenditure for the last year?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: In the last year the department made an income of Rs. 42,500 against the expenditure 26,800. As a matter of fact this year it will be more.